

Union Calendar No. 188

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1849

[Report No. 111-329, Part I]

To designate the Liberty Memorial at the National World War I Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, as the National World War I Memorial, to establish the World War I centennial commission to ensure a suitable observance of the centennial of World War I, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 1, 2009

Mr. CLEAVER (for himself, Mr. AKIN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. CLAY, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mr. SKELTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

NOVEMBER 5, 2009

Additional sponsors: Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HILL, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. CHANDLER, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. SHULER, Mr. TANNER, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. MELANCON, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. DRIEHAUS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. WAMP, Ms. FALLIN, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. POMEROY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. MARKEY of Colorado, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. BEAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MASSA, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr.

ALTMIRE, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. DREIER, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. BARROW, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. CHU, Mr. PAUL, Mr. BARTLETT, Ms. KOSMAS, Mr. KISSELL, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. MCMAHON, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. LINDER, Mr. WATT, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. LUJÁN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. ELLISON, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. GONZALEZ

NOVEMBER 5, 2009

Reported from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

NOVEMBER 5, 2009

Committee on Natural Resources discharged; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on April 1, 2009]

A BILL

To designate the Liberty Memorial at the National World War I Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, as the National World War I Memorial, to establish the World War I centennial commission to ensure a suitable observance of the centennial of World War I, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “World War I Memorial*
5 *and Centennial Act of 2009”.*

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 *Congress finds the following:*

8 (1) *More than 4,000,000 men and women from*
9 *the United States served in uniform in the defense of*
10 *liberty during World War I, among them two future*
11 *presidents, Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisen-*
12 *hower.*

13 (2) *2,000,000 individuals from the United States*
14 *served overseas during World War I, including*
15 *200,000 naval personnel who served on the seas.*

16 (3) *The United States suffered 375,000 casualties*
17 *during World War I.*

18 (4) *The events of 1914 through 1918 shaped the*
19 *world, our country, and the lives of millions of people*
20 *in countless ways.*

21 (5) *The centennial of World War I offers an op-*
22 *portunity for people in the United States to learn*
23 *about the sacrifices of their predecessors.*

24 (6) *Commemorative efforts allow people in the*
25 *United States to gain a historical understanding of*

1 *the type of conflicts that cause countries to go to war*
2 *and how those conflicts are resolved.*

3 *(7) Kansas City is home to the Liberty Memorial*
4 *and America's National World War I Museum (as so*
5 *recognized in the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense*
6 *Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Public Law*
7 *108–375)).*

8 *(8) America's National World War I Museum*
9 *seeks—*

10 *(A) to preserve the history of World War I;*
11 *and*

12 *(B) to educate and enlighten people about*
13 *this significant event, the consequences of which*
14 *are still with us.*

15 *(9) Kansas City is home to the national head-*
16 *quarters for the Veterans of Foreign Wars.*

17 *(10) Missouri is the home State of General John*
18 *Joseph Pershing, who commanded the American Ex-*
19 *peditionary Forces in Europe during World War I.*

20 *(11) The Kansas City area is the home of the*
21 *Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum.*

22 *(12) The Dwight David Eisenhower Presidential*
23 *Library and Museum is located close to Kansas City*
24 *in the neighboring State of Kansas.*

1 (13) *There is no nationally recognized memorial*
2 *honoring the service of Americans who served in*
3 *World War I.*

4 (14) *In 1919, the people of Kansas City, Mis-*
5 *souri, expressed an outpouring of support and raised*
6 *more than \$2,000,000 in two weeks for a memorial to*
7 *the service of Americans in World War I. That fund-*
8 *raising was an accomplishment unparalleled by any*
9 *other city in the United States irrespective of popu-*
10 *lation and reflected the passion of public opinion*
11 *about World War I, which had so recently ended.*

12 (15) *Following the drive, a national architec-*
13 *tural competition was held by the American Institute*
14 *of Architects for designs for a memorial to the service*
15 *of Americans in World War I, and the competition*
16 *yielded a design by architect H. Van Buren*
17 *Magonigle.*

18 (16) *On November 1, 1921, more than 100,000*
19 *people witnessed the dedication of the site for the Lib-*
20 *erty Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri. That dedi-*
21 *cation marked the only time in history that the five*
22 *allied military leaders; Lieutenant General Baron*
23 *Jacques of Belgium, General Armando Diaz of Italy,*
24 *Marshal Ferdinand Foch of France, General John J.*
25 *Pershing of the United States, and Admiral Lord*

1 *Earl Beatty of Great Britain, were together at one*
2 *place.*

3 *(17) General Pershing noted at the November 1,*
4 *1921, dedication that “[t]he people of Kansas City,*
5 *Missouri, are deeply proud of the beautiful memorial,*
6 *erected in tribute to the patriotism, the gallant*
7 *achievements, and the heroic sacrifices of their sons*
8 *and daughters who served in our country’s armed*
9 *forces during the World War. It symbolized their*
10 *grateful appreciation of duty well done, an apprecia-*
11 *tion which I share, because I know so well how richly*
12 *it is merited”.*

13 *(18) During an Armistice Day ceremony in*
14 *1924, President Calvin Coolidge marked the begin-*
15 *ning of a three-year construction project for the Lib-*
16 *erty Memorial by the laying of the cornerstone of the*
17 *memorial.*

18 *(19) The 217-foot Liberty Memorial Tower has*
19 *an inscription that reads “In Honor of Those Who*
20 *Served in the World War in Defense of Liberty and*
21 *Our Country” as well as four stone “Guardian Spir-*
22 *its” representing courage, honor, patriotism, and sac-*
23 *rifice, which rise above the observation deck, making*
24 *the Liberty Memorial a noble tribute to all who served*
25 *in World War I.*

1 (20) *During a rededication for the Liberty Me-*
2 *memorial in 1961, World War I veterans and former*
3 *Presidents Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisen-*
4 *hower recognized the memorial as a constant re-*
5 *minder of the sacrifices during World War I and the*
6 *progress that followed.*

7 (21) *The 106th Congress recognized the Liberty*
8 *Memorial as a national symbol of World War I.*

9 (22) *The National World War I Museum is the*
10 *only public museum in the United States specifically*
11 *dedicated to the history of World War I.*

12 (23) *The National World War I Museum is*
13 *known throughout the world as a major center of*
14 *World War I remembrance.*

15 **SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF THE LIBERTY MEMORIAL AT THE**
16 **NATIONAL WORLD WAR I MUSEUM IN KANSAS**
17 **CITY, MISSOURI, AS THE NATIONAL WORLD**
18 **WAR I MEMORIAL.**

19 *The Liberty Memorial at the National World War I*
20 *Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, is hereby designated as*
21 *the “National World War I Memorial”.*

1 **SEC. 4. COMMISSION ON THE COMMEMORATION OF THE**
2 **CENTENNIAL OF WORLD WAR I.**

3 (a) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—*There is established a commis-*
4 *sion to be known as the World War I Centennial Commis-*
5 *sion (in this Act referred to as the “Commission”).*

6 (b) *PURPOSE.*—*The purpose of the Commission is to*
7 *ensure a suitable observance of the centennial of World War*
8 *I that promotes the values of honor, courage, patriotism,*
9 *and sacrifice, in keeping with the representation of these*
10 *values through the four Guardian Spirits sculpted on the*
11 *Liberty Memorial Monument at America’s National World*
12 *War I Museum.*

13 (c) *DUTIES.*—*The Commission shall have the following*
14 *duties:*

15 (1) *To plan, develop, and execute programs,*
16 *projects, and activities to commemorate the centennial*
17 *of World War I.*

18 (2) *To encourage private organizations and*
19 *State and local governments to organize and partici-*
20 *pate in activities commemorating the centennial of*
21 *World War I.*

22 (3) *To facilitate and coordinate activities*
23 *throughout the United States related to the centennial*
24 *of World War I.*

1 (4) *To serve as a clearinghouse for the collection*
2 *and dissemination of information about events and*
3 *plans for the centennial of World War I.*

4 (d) *MEMBERSHIP.—*

5 (1) *NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commis-*
6 *sion shall be composed of 24 members as follows:*

7 (A) *Four members appointed by the Speak-*
8 *er of the House of Representatives.*

9 (B) *Three members appointed by the minor-*
10 *ity leader of the House of Representatives.*

11 (C) *Four members appointed by the Senate*
12 *majority leader.*

13 (D) *Three members appointed by the Senate*
14 *minority leader.*

15 (E) *Seven members who are broadly rep-*
16 *resentative of the people of the United States (in-*
17 *cluding members of the armed services and vet-*
18 *erans), appointed by the President.*

19 (F) *The executive director of the Veterans of*
20 *Foreign Wars of the United States (or the direc-*
21 *tor's delegate).*

22 (G) *The executive director of the American*
23 *Legion (or the director's delegate).*

24 (H) *The president of the Liberty Memorial*
25 *Association, the nonprofit entity responsible for*

1 *the management of America's National World*
2 *War I Museum (or the president's delegate).*

3 (2) *EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.*—*The Archivist of the*
4 *United States and the Secretary of the Smithsonian*
5 *Institution shall serve in an ex officio capacity on the*
6 *Commission to provide advice and information to the*
7 *Commission.*

8 (3) *CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP.*—*If a mem-*
9 *ber of the Commission under subparagraph (F), (G),*
10 *or (H) of paragraph (1) ceases to hold a position*
11 *named in such subparagraph, that member must re-*
12 *sign from the Commission as of the date that the*
13 *member ceases to hold that position.*

14 (4) *TERMS.*—*Each member shall be appointed*
15 *for the life of the Commission.*

16 (5) *DEADLINE FOR APPOINTMENT.*—*All members*
17 *of the Commission shall be appointed not later than*
18 *90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.*

19 (6) *VACANCIES.*—*A vacancy on the Commission*
20 *shall—*

21 (A) *not affect the powers of the Commission;*
22 *and*

23 (B) *be filled in the manner in which the*
24 *original appointment was made.*

1 (7) *PAY.*—*Members shall not receive compensa-*
2 *tion for the performance of their duties on behalf of*
3 *the Commission.*

4 (8) *TRAVEL EXPENSES.*—*Each member shall re-*
5 *ceive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of*
6 *subsistence, in accordance with the applicable provi-*
7 *sions under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5,*
8 *United States Code.*

9 (9) *QUORUM.*—*A majority of members of the*
10 *Commission plus one shall constitute a quorum, but*
11 *a lesser number may hold hearings.*

12 (10) *CHAIRPERSON; VICE CHAIRPERSON.*—*The*
13 *Commission shall elect the Chairperson and Vice*
14 *Chairperson of the Commission by a majority vote of*
15 *the members of the Commission.*

16 (11) *MEETINGS.*—

17 (A) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Commission shall*
18 *meet at the call of the Chairperson, except that*
19 *the first meeting shall be held before the end of*
20 *the 120-day period beginning on the effective*
21 *date of this Act.*

22 (B) *LOCATION.*—*The Commission shall hold*
23 *the first meeting at America's National World*
24 *War I Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, and*

1 *thereafter shall hold at least one meeting per*
2 *year at such location.*

3 *(e) DIRECTOR AND ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL OF THE*
4 *COMMISSION; EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—*

5 *(1) DIRECTOR AND STAFF.—*

6 *(A) APPOINTMENT.—The Chairperson of the*
7 *Commission shall, in consultation with the mem-*
8 *bers of the Commission, appoint an executive di-*
9 *rector and such other additional personnel as*
10 *may be necessary to enable the Commission to*
11 *perform its duties.*

12 *(B) PAY.—The executive director and staff*
13 *of the Commission may be appointed without re-*
14 *gard to the provisions of title 5, United States*
15 *Code, governing appointments in the competitive*
16 *service, and may be paid without regard to the*
17 *provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of*
18 *chapter 53 of such title relating to classification*
19 *and General Schedule pay rates, except that the*
20 *rate of pay for the executive director and other*
21 *staff may not exceed the rate payable for level V*
22 *of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of*
23 *such title.*

24 *(C) WORK LOCATION.—If the city govern-*
25 *ment for Kansas City, Missouri, and the non-*

1 *profit organization which administers America's*
 2 *National World War I Museum make space*
 3 *available, the executive director and any addi-*
 4 *tional personnel appointed under subparagraph*
 5 *(A) shall work in the building that houses that*
 6 *museum.*

7 (2) *EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.*—*The Commis-*
 8 *sion may procure temporary and intermittent services*
 9 *under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code.*

10 (3) *STAFF OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.*—*Upon re-*
 11 *quest of the Commission, the head of any Federal de-*
 12 *partment or agency may detail, on a reimbursable*
 13 *basis, any personnel of that department or agency to*
 14 *the Commission to assist it in carrying out its duties*
 15 *under this Act.*

16 (f) *POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.*—

17 (1) *HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.*—*For the purpose*
 18 *of carrying out this Act, the Commission may hold*
 19 *hearings, sit and act at times and places, take testi-*
 20 *mony, and receive evidence as the Commission con-*
 21 *siders appropriate.*

22 (2) *POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS.*—*If au-*
 23 *thorized by the Commission, any member or agent of*
 24 *the Commission may take any action which the Com-*
 25 *mission is authorized to take by this section.*

1 (3) *OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.*—*The Commis-*
2 *sion shall secure directly from any department or*
3 *agency of the United States information necessary to*
4 *enable it to carry out this Act. Upon the request of*
5 *the Chairperson of the Commission, the head of that*
6 *department or agency shall furnish that information*
7 *to the Commission.*

8 (4) *GIFTS, BEQUESTS, AND DEVISES.*—

9 (A) *ACCEPTANCE BY COMMISSION.*—*The*
10 *Commission may accept, use, and dispose of*
11 *gifts, bequests, or devises of services or property,*
12 *both real and personal, for the purpose of aiding*
13 *or facilitating the work of the Commission.*

14 (B) *DEPOSIT AND AVAILABILITY.*—*Gifts, be-*
15 *quests, or devises of money and proceeds from*
16 *sales of other property received as gifts, bequests,*
17 *or devises shall be deposited in the Treasury and*
18 *shall be available for disbursement upon order of*
19 *the Commission.*

20 (5) *MAILS.*—*The Commission may use the*
21 *United States mails in the same manner and under*
22 *the same conditions as other departments and agen-*
23 *cies of the United States.*

24 (6) *ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.*—*Upon*
25 *the request of the Commission, the Administrator of*

1 *General Services shall provide to the Commission, on*
2 *a reimbursable basis, the administrative support serv-*
3 *ices necessary for the Commission to carry out its re-*
4 *sponsibilities under this Act.*

5 (7) *CONTRACT AUTHORITY.*—*The Commission is*
6 *authorized to procure supplies, services, and property*
7 *and to make or enter in contracts, leases, or other*
8 *legal agreements; except that any contract, lease, or*
9 *other legal agreement made or entered into by the*
10 *Commission may not extend beyond the date of termi-*
11 *nation of the Commission.*

12 (g) *REPORTS.*—

13 (1) *PERIODIC REPORT.*—*Beginning not later*
14 *than the last day of the 3-month period beginning on*
15 *the effective date of this Act, and the last day of each*
16 *3-month period thereafter, the Commission shall sub-*
17 *mit to Congress and the President a report on the ac-*
18 *tivities and plans of the Commission.*

19 (2) *ANNUAL REPORTS.*—*The Commission shall*
20 *submit to the President and Congress annual reports*
21 *on the revenue and expenditures of the Commission,*
22 *including a list of each gift, bequest, or devise to the*
23 *Commission with a value of more than \$250, together*
24 *with the identity of the donor of each gift, bequest, or*
25 *devise.*

1 (3) *RECOMMENDATIONS.*—*Not later than 2 years*
2 *after the effective date of this Act, the Commission*
3 *shall submit to Congress and the President a report*
4 *containing specific recommendations for commemo-*
5 *rating the centennial of World War I and coordi-*
6 *nating related activities.*

7 (h) *FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT WAIVER.*—
8 *Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C.*
9 *App.), relating to the termination of advisory committees,*
10 *shall not apply to the Commission.*

11 (i) *AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDS.*—

12 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*There is authorized to be ap-*
13 *propriated to the Commission to carry out this Act*
14 *\$500,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2019.*

15 (2) *AVAILABILITY.*—*Amounts made available*
16 *under this subsection shall remain available until the*
17 *termination of the Commission as described in sub-*
18 *section (k).*

19 (j) *ANNUAL AUDIT.*—*For any fiscal year for which the*
20 *Commission receives an appropriation of funds, the Inspec-*
21 *tor General of the Department of the Interior shall perform*
22 *an audit of the Commission, shall make the results of any*
23 *audit performed available to the public, and shall transmit*
24 *such results to the Committee on Oversight and Government*
25 *Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee*

1 *on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the*
2 *Senate.*

3 (k) *TERMINATION.*—*The Commission shall terminate*
4 *on the earlier of the date that is 30 days after the activities*
5 *honoring the centennial observation of World War I are car-*
6 *ried out, or July 28, 2019.*

7 (l) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—*This section shall take effect on*
8 *January 1, 2010.*

Union Calendar No. 188

11TH CONGRESS
1ST Session

H. R. 1849

[Report No. 111-329, Part I]

A BILL

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